

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as set forth below. Replacement paragraphs are provided below in compliance with the Revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, effective July 30, 2003. Current additions are shown by underlines and deletions are shown by strikethrough or double brackets.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 5, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

A still further embodiment of the present invention provides an absorbent garment comprising: a substantially impermeable backsheet and a permeable topsheet defining a front [[waste]] waist portion and a rear [[waste]] waist portion, said front [[waste]] waist portion and said rear [[waste]] waist portion cooperating to form a [[waste]] waist opening; a crotch region formed between the front [[waste]] waist portion and the rear [[waste]] waist portion; a pair of leg openings on opposed sides of the crotch region; an absorbent core disposed between the substantially impermeable backsheet and the permeable topsheet at the crotch region; wherein the absorbent core comprises a superabsorbent polymer having a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 500 kg mm.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 11, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Superabsorbent materials suitable for use in the present invention have a Gel Integrity Index of ~~at least less than~~ about 500 kg mm. Preferably, the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 10 kg mm. Even more preferably, the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 1 kg mm. Even more preferably, the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 0.05 kg mm. Most preferably, the superabsorbent

polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of about 0.10 kg mm to about 0.30 kg mm.

Applicants have discovered that absorbent cores comprising a superabsorbent polymer having a Gel Integrity Index as described above unexpectedly exhibit superior absorbency.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 22, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The test method for determining the Gel Integrity Index of the superabsorbent polymer in accordance with the present invention is provided in U.S. Patent No. 5,843,[[050]]059, issued on December 1, 1998 to Niemeyer et al., which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.